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Agenda Item 6 and 7

CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Draft decisions approved by the Programme Committee

1. Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue and increase co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), inter alia, in the four areas identified by the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Programme and the Bureau of its Governing Council with the Executive Director of the Centre and the Bureau of the Commission of Human Settlements (UNEP/GC.13/6, para. 18),

Recalling also its decision 15/18 of 25 May 1989 on co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.16/11),

Welcomes the increasing co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the four established areas and within the system-wide efforts of the United Nations and requests the Executive Director of the Programme to continue and intensify this co-operation.

2. Industrial accidents

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/39 of 25 May 1989, by paragraph 3 of which it requested the Executive Director to set up a network of organizations and experts to facilitate the exchange of information and prevention of industrial accidents that might impact negatively on the environment and to provide assistance in the case of emergencies, and to report thereon to the Council at its sixteenth regular session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on industrial accidents (UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), paras. 1-14),

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in developing the APELL (awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level) process and in initiating concrete local and national activities for enhancing public awareness and preparedness;

2. Takes note of the recommendations of the senior-level expert advisory group at its second meeting, held in Paris from 3 to 5 December 1990 (UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), para. 14);

3. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, intergovernmental and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and world industry to continue to support the widespread implementation of the APELL process to all industrial areas through generous financial contributions or technical assistance;

4. Takes note of the progress made in identifying organizations and experts capable of providing information and assistance in the case of emergencies;

5. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to develop the APELL process and promote its implementation by providing expertise, advice and technical assistance where action has been initiated, by the preparation of the necessary publications and by supporting human resources development in this field;

(b) To continue developing the network for the exchange of information and technology for the prevention of industrial accidents and the provision of assistance in the case of emergencies, with particular emphasis on the prevention aspect.

3. Improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/24 of 17 June 1987 and 15/38 of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on improvement and harmonization of environmental measurements (UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), paras. 1-8),

1. Notes that, with the support of the Government of Germany, the Office for Harmonization of Environmental Measurement has been established at Munich, Germany;

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2. Further notes that apart from the voluntary contributions from the Government of Germany, no other financial contributions have been forthcoming, and that without such contributions the project will have to be terminated;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue contacting Governments to seek support for the project;

4. Further requests the Office for Harmonization of Environmental Measurement to continue to conduct its activities in close consultation with the competent United Nations agencies;

5. Appeals to Governments and international organizations to assist the project to fulfil its objectives by, inter alia, providing financial resources and seconding staff;

6. Calls upon Governments and international organizations to participate actively in the implementation of the project.

4. List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 12/11 of 28 May 1984 and 14/32 of 18 June 1987,

Having considered the updated report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (UNEP/GC.16/20),

1. Takes note of the updated report of the Executive Director on the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To refer the report to Governments, relevant intergovernmental and international organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations for further study and action, as appropriate;

(b) To obtain their comments on the report and, in particular, on the recommendations contained therein;

(c) To review the use made of the list and to submit the results to the Council in 1993;

(d) To submit to the Council in 1993 proposals for a possible update of the list in the light of the outcome of the review referred to in subparagraph (c) above.

5. Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by establishment of programme activity centres (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.1 and Corr.1 (English only)),

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Recalling its decision 13/1, section II, part 2, paragraph 1, of 23 May 1985, by which it welcomed the initiative of the Executive Director in establishing a two-year pilot phase of the Global Resource Information Database,

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B, paragraph 4, of 3 August 1990, in which it requested the Executive Director to strengthen the activities of the Industry and Environment Office related to the development of clean technologies in the field of hazardous wastes,

Noting with satisfaction that the Industry and Environment Office has, for a number of years, played an important role to promote environmentally sound industrial development, particularly through technology and information exchange, thus contributing to the implementation of decisions 15/37, on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology, and 15/39, on industrial accidents, of 25 May 1989,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of decision 10/21 of 31 May 1982, in which the Council endorsed the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and of subsequent decisions in the field of environmental law,

Recognizing that, in view of rapidly changing perceptions and emerging environmental needs, the effective implementation of the Global Resource Information Database, industry and law subprogrammes calls for a more autonomous, sharply focused and flexible approach,

1. Decides to give the Global Resource Information Database, the Industry and Environment Office and the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit a greater degree of autonomy in fulfilling their functions by establishing them as programme activity centres within the Office of the Environment Programme with the priorities and long-term goals set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. Requests the Executive Director to accelerate the development of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and its network to help promote a global exchange of environmentally sound technologies;

3. Calls upon Governments and international organizations concerned to co-operate and support the development and application of international environmental law, assistance to developing countries through the provision of technical assistance to develop national environmental legislation, institutional building, and support of education and information programmes regarding environmental law;

4. Calls upon the United Nations organizations and bodies and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations active in the field of environmental law to co-operate fully with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of its programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report on the progress of work under the new programme activity centres to the Council at its seventeenth regular session.

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Annex

PRIORITIES AND LONG-TERM GOALS OF THE GLOBAL RESOURCE
INFORMATION DATABASE (GRID), INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND INSTITUTIONS
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY CENTRES

A. Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Programme Activity Centre

1. Environment management support

(a) Priorities. Producing packages of options that are feasible for use by policy makers in taking their decisions in respect of resource use and sustainable management of the environment within the context of development plans; providing an international forum for data collectors and information users to match data to needs.

(b) Long-term goal. A fully integrated and functioning United Nations based core GRID system of co-operating agency and national centres, openly exchanging environmental data and information and providing the necessary information management support to bridge the gap between the generation and the use of environmental data.

2. Environmental data management

(a) Priorities. Acquisition, verification and dissemination of geo-referenced environmental datasets, as well as the development of methodologies for handling global and regional data.

(b) Long-term goal. All major existing global and regional environmental databases to be more effectively available through the Global Resource Information Database network in appropriate forms to a wide range of users, from students to scientists to politicians.

3. Agency support

(a) Priorities. Providing access to geographic information systems and expertise for supporting environmental assessments and practical environmental problem-solving at all levels.

(b) Long-term goal. All United Nations specialized agencies and most major intergovernmental organizations having access to GRID data and technology for the description, understanding and solution of environment-related problems.

4. Technology transfer

(a) Priorities. Formal geographic information system and remote-sensing training programmes in on-the-job case study applications and in conjunction with technical assistance programmes to strengthen national capabilities of developing countries in particular.

(b) Long-term goal. Providing access to GRID data technology to all countries in the world and providing most with functioning GRID-compatible monitoring and assessment centres for national environmental assessment and management.

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B. Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre

1. Promotion of the environmentally sound management of selected industrial sectors

(a) Priority. To maintain a consultative process with industry and prepare and disseminate technical guidelines in a number of industrial sectors, including tourism, transportation and the working environment.

(b) Long-term goal. To review the environmental implications of all industry sectors and the impact of improved technologies on the enhancement of the state of the environment, particularly with respect to air and water pollution.

2. Promotion of the cleaner production network

(a) Priority. To establish and operate a network of industries and organizations dedicated to "cleaner production" through industrial sectoral working groups, a newsletter and a computerized exchange system.

(b) Long-term goal. To strengthen national capabilities for managing industrial development to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

3. Prevention of industrial accidents

(a) Priority. Development of the awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level (APELL) programme to prevent industrial accidents and reduce their impact on the environment.

(b) Long-term goal. Improved emergency response and prevention of industrial accidents.

4. Technical support to developing countries

(a) Priority. Operation of a query-response service, establishment of database on industry and environment issues, training workshops on environmentally sound technologies (low-waste and no waste) and on hazardous wastes management.

(b) Long-term goal. To strengthen national policies and capabilities for managing industrial development in an environmentally sound way.

C. Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre

1. Promotion and implementation of global legal environmental instruments

(a) Priority. To assist countries with the development, adoption and implementation of international legal instruments, including conventions and protocols, as well as principles and guidelines, with regard to the control or prevention of specific environmental problems.

(b) Long-term goal. A coherent body of international law in the environmental field.

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2. Formulation and implementation of national environmental legislation and establishment or support of appropriate institutions

(a) Priority. To assist developing countries, through training, the provision of technical assistance for attending meetings, enacting national environmental legislation and setting up environmental machineries. This includes assessment of problems preventing developing countries from becoming parties to or implementing environment legislation.

(b) Long-term goal. National environmental laws adopted and institutions established in developing countries.

3. Information exchange

(a) Priority. To collect and disseminate information on national environmental legislation and maintain a register of international Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment; to strengthen and co-ordinate to the use of existing information sources and data bases.

(b) Long-term goal. An operational comprehensive data base on national and international environmental law.

6. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Noting with appreciation the services of the Governments and international governmental organizations that act as depositaries of various international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.16/19);

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the report, on its behalf, together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975;

3. Requests the Executive Director to make the report and the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment (UNEP/GC.16/Inf.4) available to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session;

4. Also calls upon the Executive Director, in furtherance of the objectives of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to co-operate fully in reviewing the effectiveness of existing international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;

5. Urges those States that have not already done so to sign, ratify, accede to and implement relevant conventions in the field of the environment.

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7. Desertification

A. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/169 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 35/73 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/147 of 17 December 1982 and

37/218 of 20 December 1982, 38/160 of 9 December 1983, 39/168 A of 17 December 1984, 40/198 A of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 42/189 A of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 A of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 9/22 A and B of 26 May 1981, section VII of its decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982, section VII of its decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983, and its decisions 12/10 of 28 May 1984, 14/15 A of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 A of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.16/16 and Corr.1),

Having also considered those parts of the 1989 and 1990 reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination dealing with the co-ordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.16/13 and Corr.1 (English and French only), paras. 29-31, and UNEP/GC.16/12 paras. 47-50),

Reaffirming its conviction that the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification is an appropriate instrument to assist Governments in developing national programmes for arresting the process of desertification,

Also reaffirming its conviction that combating desertification at the national level:

(a) Should involve the traditional systems used by local people to promote popular participation in programmes of desertification control;

(b) Requires the establishment of effective institutional machinery for integrating desertification control programmes into overall national development plans and priorities,

Taking note of the report of Consultative Group for Desertification Control on the work of its seventh session (DESCON-7/7) and, in particular, its paragraph 22 (xii), which states that participants expressed a strong desire for the Consultative Group to contribute to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that it was suggested that, for this purpose, the eight session of the Consultative Group, in 1991, would be of a special character and attract a large number of countries and organizations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

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2. Authorizes the Executive Director to submit his report, on behalf of the Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

3. Encourages the ongoing efforts to compile a global assessment of desertification and to carry out mapping of thematic indicators of desertification at the global, regional and national levels;

4. Takes note of the action taken by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification to mobilize technical resources to assist States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference to develop and implement national programmes to combat desertification and to encourage reporting on activities of member organizations relevant to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

5. Invites donor Governments, intergovernmental bodies, including aid agencies and non-governmental organizations, to accord high priority in their bilateral and multilateral assistance activities to national programmes for combating desertification and for the rehabilitation of degraded land resources and to take into account the promotion of long-term ecological and social rehabilitation programmes in areas prone to desertification;

6. Emphasizes the importance of further steps to improve international co-ordination between agencies within or outside the United Nations system involved in combating desertification;

7. Requests the Executive Director to assist, within available financial resources, countries prone to desertification, at their request, in developing programmes for combating desertification within their development plans;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify his efforts to contribute fully to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to report on his efforts to Preparatory Committee for the Conference through, inter alia, the drafting of a consolidated report to be made available to the Committee at its fourth session.

9. Authorizes the Executive Director to convene the eight session of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control as a session of a special character devoted to a review of the draft consolidated report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification before the report is made available to the Preparatory Committee and to invite all interested Governments, donor agencies and intergovernmental agencies to that session.

B. Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982, 42/189 C of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 A of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 13/30 A of 23 May 1985, 14/15 D of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 B of 25 May 1991,

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Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Consultative Group for Desertification Control (UNEP/GC.16/16, section III),

1. Recommends that, pending action by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the mandate of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control should be changed to concentrate on information exchange and co-ordination, reviewing the status of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and exchanging information on scientific research in this field, national programmes and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, and advising on further action against desertification;

2. Invites the international community to pledge voluntary contributions to local, national and regional mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. Further invites the international community to create the necessary economic and financial conditions that would enable countries prone to desertification to appropriate part of their resources to combat desertification;

4. Requests the Executive Director to expedite the studies requested by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director, on the financing of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and other aspects of supporting it.

C. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/170 of 19 December 1977, 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, 39/168 B and 39/206 of 17 December 1984, 40/198 B of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of June 1986, 42/189 B of 11 December 1987 and 44/172 B of 19 December 1989,

Recalling also its decisions 13/30 B of 23 May 1985, 14/15 B of 18 June 1987 and 15/23 B of 25 May 1989,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1989 and 1990 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and, in particular, the section on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region (UNEP/GC.16/16, section IV),

1. Commends the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office on the steps it has taken, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, towards the implementation of the Plan of Action in twenty-two countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, in particular in the areas of natural resources management and sustainable development;

2. Requests the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to strengthen its actions at the national level to assist Governments in the region in developing national plans of action to combat desertification and in incorporating them into national plans for sustainable development, developing or strengthening relevant institutions, implementing replicable integrated projects and ensuring that not only the symptoms but also the causes of desertification are addressed, using available financial resources effectively by avoiding duplication of activities and co-ordinating the anti-desertification activities undertaken by the international community in the region;

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3. Urges the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to contribute fully to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular, to the comprehensive report on desertification for the Conference;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director to continue support to the Office as a joint venture with the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Invites the Executive Director and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to intensify efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to the countries served by the Office in combating desertification.

D. External evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/23 A of 25 May 1989,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.16/Add.1);

2. Underlines the need for further refinement of the definition of the concept of desertification, taking into account recent findings about the influence of climate fluctuations and about the resilience of soils;

3. Requests the Executive Director to forward the approved findings and recommendations of the evaluation report along with the present decision to the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third substantive session, in August 1991;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to take into account, when revising and existing recommendations of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the approved findings and recommendations in the Council's report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the status of desertification and implementation of the Plan of Action.

8. Preparation of an international legal instrument
on biological diversity

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 15/34 of 25 May 1989 and SS.II/5 of 3 August 1990, on international legal instrument on biological diversity,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress in the preparation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 32-39),

Stressing that both the conservation of biological diversity and the rational use of biological resources shall be integral and inseparable elements of the convention,

Recognizing the desirability of having the convention ready for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the decision of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity established pursuant to decision 15/34 to recommend that the matter of renaming the Group should be addressed to the Council at its sixteenth session, as the body with appropriate authority to make relevant decisions (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, para. 39),

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1. Decides to rename the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity the "Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity";
 2. Affirms that the change of name does not mean a new negotiating body nor affect the continuity of the process of elaborating the convention;
 3. Further affirms that participation in meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall be in accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts at its second session (UNEP/Bio.Div/WG.2/2/5, Annex);
 4. Invites the members of the Ecosystems Conservation Group to continue to provide technical assistance and legal support to the negotiations on a convention on biological diversity.
9. Transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 15/37 of 25 May 1989, on promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology and, in particular, its paragraph 1,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on transfer of environmentally sound technology (UNEP/GC.16/21 and Corr.1 (English only), (paras. 15-26)),

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress in the gathering, processing and world-wide dissemination of information on cleaner production by the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing-house of the Industry and Environment Office of the United Nations Environment Programme and the inputs from the working groups in the cleaner production programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Calls upon Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry associations and academics to develop and initiate cleaner production activities and to participate in their implementation;

3. Calls upon the Executive Director:

(a) To support, within the cleaner production programme, the initiation and development of cleaner production activities in different regions;

(b) To develop educational and training activities to help institutions and Governments in developing cleaner production programmes;

(c) To promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies.

10. Programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and supplementary programme for the biennium 1990-1991

The Governing Council,

I. PROGRAMME BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

1. Commends the organizations of the United Nations system for their contributions to the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium

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1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.16/15) and calls upon them to co-operate fully with the Executive Director in the implementation of this programme;

2. Approves the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as set out in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/15) with the following amendments, the final apportionments by subprogramme and programme element being annexed to the present decision:

(a) Subprogramme 9 (Peace, security and the environment) is deleted and activities 1 and 4 transferred to subprogramme 2 (Water). Activities 2 and 3 of subprogramme 9 should not be implemented;

(b) Under subprogramme 5 (Lithosphere), the allocation for activity 1 is reduced to \$100,000 (C) and \$50,000 (S);

(c) Under subprogramme 12 (Environmental awareness) activity 7 of programme element 12.1 (Environmental education and training) is deleted;

(d) Under subprogramme 3 (Terrestrial ecosystems) the allocation for programme element 3.2 (Arid lands and desertification) is increased by \$600,000 (C) and \$230,000 (S);

(e) Under subprogramme 4 (Oceans), the allocation for programme element 4.1 (Regional marine environments, including combating degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources) is increased by \$350,000 (C) and \$130,000 (S);

(f) Under subprogramme 11 (Environmental management measures), the allocation for programme element 11.1 (Environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation) is increased by \$510,000 (C) and \$190,000 (S);

(g) Subprogrammes 10 (Environmental assessment), 11 (Environmental management measures), 12 (Environmental awareness) and 13 (Technical and regional co-operation) become, respectively, subprogrammes 9, 10, 11 and 12;

II. SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Recalling section VI, paragraph 3, of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, by which it approved an appropriation of \$35 million as a supplementary appropriation for Fund programme activities as presented in the annex to that decision,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1 and Corr.1) on the status of implementation of the supplementary programme approved by the Council decision 15/1;

2. Approves the adjustments to the supplementary programme proposed by the Executive Director in his report (UNEP/GC.16/15/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex II), with the following amendments:

(a) The title of activity 1 becomes "Studies on the implications of climate changes and rising sea-level in coastal areas as specified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change";

(b) Under activity 1, the phrase "including the special needs of small island countries" is added after the words "climate change" at the end of the last subparagraph;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to implement the adjusted programme during the remaining part of 1991 as and when resources become available, giving priority to:

(a) Preparation of a draft convention on biological diversity;

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(b) Studies on the implications of climate changes and sea-level rise in coastal areas as specified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(d) Support to the participation of developing countries in technical and intergovernmental meetings convened by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Annex

PROGRAMME BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
FOR THE BIENNium 1992-1993: APPORTIONMENTS BY
SUBPROGRAMME AND PROGRAMME ELEMENT

Subprogramme/programme element	Programme		Additional programme Amount	Total Amount (Thousand of United States dollars)	Percentage
	Amount	Percentage			
1. ATMOSPHERE	7 000	4.7	2 000	9 000	5.0
2. WATER	8 840	5.9	2 700	11 540	6.4
3. TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	20 550	13.7	4 180	24 730	13.7
3.1 Soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals	2 500	1.7	500	3 000	1.7
3.2 Arid lands and desertification	8 900	5.9	1 930	10 830	6.0
3.3 Forests and other ecosystems	3 150	2.1	850	4 000	2.2
3.4 Biological diversity	5 200	3.5	700	5 900	3.3
3.5 Microbial resources and related biotechnologies	800	0.5	200	1 000	0.6
4. OCEANS	11 950	8.0	2 530	14 480	8.0
5. LITHOSPHERE	500	0.3	150	650	0.4
6. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	3 350	2.2	650	4 000	2.2
6.1 Environmental aspects of human settlements planning and management	2 100	1.4	400	2 500	1.4
6.2 Community preparedness for natural and man-made environmental disasters	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
7. HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE	2 500	1.7	500	3 000	1.7
7.1 Hazards of pollution	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
7.2 Environmental aspects of human health	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
8. ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION	10 750	7.2	2 150	12 900	7.2
8.1 Energy and environment	1 700	1.1	300	2 000	1.1
8.2 Industry and environment	6 600	4.4	1 300	7 900	4.4
8.3 Transportation and environment	1 250	0.8	250	1 500	0.8
8.4 Tourism and environment	800	0.5	200	1 000	0.6
8.5 Working environment	400	0.3	100	500	0.3
9. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	28 050	18.7	5 500	33 550	18.6
9.1 Earthwatch co-ordination	750	0.5	250	1 000	0.6
9.2 INFOTERRA	3 300	2.2	700	4 000	2.2
9.3 International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals	8 300	5.5	1 700	10 000	5.6
9.4 Global Resources Information Database (GRID)	5 800	3.9	1 150	6 950	3.9
9.5 Global Environmental Monitoring Systems (GEMS)	7 900	5.3	1 700	9 600	5.3
9.6 State of the environment	2 000	1.3	-	2 000	1.1
10. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES	17 460	11.6	2 940	20 400	11.3
10.1 Environmental aspects of development planning and co-operation	4 660	3.1	1 040	5 700	3.2
10.2 Environmental law and institutions	12 800	8.5	1 900	14 700	8.2
11. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	19 500	13.0	2 900	22 400	12.4
11.1 Environmental education and training	7 800	5.2	1 000	8 800	4.9
11.2 Public information	11 700	7.8	1 900	13 600	7.6
12. TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION	19 550	13.0	3 800	23 350	13.0
TOTAL	150 000	100.0	30 000	180 000	100.0
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11. Freshwater resources

Concerned about the increasing threats to freshwater resources in many parts of the world,

Stressing the urgent need for decisive action, inter alia, to achieve integrated and efficient management of freshwater resources, in particular in arid and semi-arid areas, and to make available safe water and sanitation, particularly to people in poverty-stricken areas,

Emphasizing the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of freshwater resources,

Taking note of paragraphs 3 to 5 of decision 2/.. of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee, inter alia, invited the International Conference on Water and the Environment, to be held in Dublin in January 1992, to consider an action framework on sustainable development and management of freshwater resources and invited Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other interested organizations to engage actively in the preparatory process leading to the Conference,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution being made by the United Nations Environment Programme to the preparations for the Dublin Conference;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue to give full support to the preparations for the Dublin Conference, including financial contributions within available resources.

12. Regional activities within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme related to changes in the global life-supporting system

The Governing Council,

Concerned at the changes in the global life-supporting system as a result of human activity,

Considering that the understanding of the changes is a necessary step towards mitigating or adapting to them,

Cognizant that proper monitoring of the change is an indispensable element of an environmentally sound strategy for sustainable development,

Considering that the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and the World Climate Programme play an essential role in improving the understanding of the causes and consequences of global changes, including global climate change,

Noting General Assembly resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989, by which the Assembly recommended that Governments continue and, wherever possible, increase their activities in support of the World Climate Programme and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and that the international scientific community support efforts by developing countries to participate in these scientific activities,

Noting further the final statement of the Scientific and Technical sessions of the Second World Climate Conference, which, inter alia, called for a special initiative that would create a network of regional interdisciplinary research centres, located primarily in developing

countries, and focusing on all of the natural science, social science, and engineering disciplines required to fully support integrated studies of global change and its impacts and policy responses (A/45/696/Add.1, annex II, section C, para. 11),

1. Welcomes the initiative of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme to address regional problems of global importance through its Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START);
2. Appeals to all States to establish and support national committees for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme;
3. States that the START activities of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme in the developing regions deserve the support of the governments from within and outside the region concerned;
4. Requests the Executive Director to provide, support to the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme regional research centres and networks, which should be planned and implemented in conjunction with the relevant World Climate Programme activities.

13. Expansion to the Central American Pacific of the
Action Plan for the South-East Pacific

The Governing Council,

Aware that the countries of the South East Pacific - Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru - have since 1981 been implementing the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and co-ordinated by Permanent Commission for the South Pacific,

Also aware that the Action Plan has been a beneficial experience for the region that should be broadened and shared in other areas with similar environmental conditions,

Having in mind that one Central American Government and other Central American forums have expressed an interest in having the Action Plan for the South-East Pacific expanded and that this interest is shared by the countries participating in the Action Plan,

1. Requests the Executive Director to initiate action to facilitate the expansion to the Central American Pacific of the Action Plan for the South East Pacific;
2. Also requests the Executive Director to consider the possibility of providing the resources required for undertaking the necessary action to facilitate the expansion of Action Plan.

14. Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on
possible adverse effects of sea-level rise and islands and
coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas (A/46/156 - E/1991/54, transmitted to the Governing Council by a note of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.16/18)).

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15. Modification by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session (A/45/16 - Part I),

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, particularly on the recommendation to delete subprogramme 9, on peace, security and the environment, from programme 16 of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which states the main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 14/13 of 19 June 1987 and General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 adopting the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and calling attention to chapter III, section D, of the Perspective, on security and environment, paragraph 86 of which defines the role of the United Nations Environment Programme on issues of disarmament and security,

Recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(a) Maintain the high priority assigned by the Council to the preparation of multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources;

(b) Keep the title of subprogramme 13 as "Technical and regional co-operation";

(c) Maintain the text of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) in the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

16. Protection of the ozone layer

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.II/2 of 3 August 1990 on new developments in the protection of the ozone layer,

Noting the efforts being made with regard to the implementation of the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro.2/3, para.40), held in London, from 27 to 29 June 1990, including the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund,

Noting that the adjustments to the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro.2/3, annex I), which have already come into force and the Amendments to the Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro.2/3, annex II) are interconnected,

Noting that, as of 22 May 1991, only \$10,197,609, from a total of nine States, had been contributed to the Fund,

1. Urges States that have not already done so to ratify, accept or approve the Montreal Protocol;

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2. Urges States that have not yet done so to ratify, accept or approve the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol adopted by the Second Meeting of the Parties so that the Amendment can enter into force on 1 January 1992;

3. Urges the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol that have not yet done so to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention and the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol to enable the Ozone Secretariat to implement the decisions of the Parties;

4. Endorses the efforts of the of the Executive Director in promoting the establishment of the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund and requests him to undertake appropriate actions expeditiously to develop and implement of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, as an executing agency of the Fund, for the Executive Committee of the Fund and to report thereon to the Governing Council;

5. Urges the parties to the Montreal Protocol that have not yet done so to pay their contributions towards the Interim Multilateral Ozone Fund as soon as possible, in line with decision II/8 of the Second Meeting of the Parties, so that the various activities under the Fund can be conducted in a timely manner.

17. Climate change

Recalling its decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change and its decisions SS.II/3 A, B and C of 3 August 1990 on Second World Climate Conference, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and framework convention on climate change, respectively,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990 on climate change and, in particular, its paragraphs 1, 7, 12 and 21 by which the Assembly expressed its views on the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the negotiating process and the view that the negotiations for the preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments and any related legal instrument as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and opened for signature during the Conference,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Second World Climate Conference,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the Second World Climate Conference (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 1-14), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 15-27), and the framework convention on climate change (UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.3, paras. 28-31),

Noting the resolution 3.2.5/5 (Cg-XI) of 23 May 1991 of the Eleventh Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, on the World Climate Programme and its co-ordination, and, in particular, the establishment of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, which supersedes the World Climate Impact Studies Programme, and the indication in that resolution that the Global Climate Observing System is an essential activity associated with the World Climate Programme,

Noting resolution XVI of the Sixteenth Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by which it was decided

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to undertake the development of a Global Ocean Observing System, and the associated statement and declaration on a Global Ocean Observing System containing a recommendation for adoption by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Urging States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support actions aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity,

I. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Urges States, acting individually or in groups, as well as through the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations bodies or other institutions, to support the negotiating process aimed at the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humanity;

2. Requests the Executive Director with due consideration of the immediacy of the process:

(a) To support fully the intergovernmental negotiating process through, inter alia, contributing to the cost of the negotiating process, including its funding, if necessary by examining the scope for savings in other Environment Fund activities or using a portion of the Environment Fund reserve;

(b) To support the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee through the secondment of an appropriate staff member from the United Nations Environment Programme, and responding positively to further requests for secondment from within available resources;

(c) To make available to the secretariat of the Committee all relevant information and data collected by the Programme, including the results of its work on climate change impact assessments and response strategies and on the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change;

II. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

1. Expresses its appreciation to the World Meteorological Organization for co-sponsoring the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

2. Expresses its gratitude to Governments and organizations for their support of the Panel's activities;

3. Commends the Panel for completing its First Assessment Report in less than two years;

4. Further urges Governments to strengthen their active participation in the work carried out by the Panel, its working groups and task forces;

5. Supports, considering the need for further assessments of all aspects of climate change, the continuation of the Panel and reaffirms its terms of reference as contained in Council decision SS.II/3 B;

6. Urges Governments and organizations to continue and increase their cash contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund;

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7. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To intensify co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Panel in the area of climate change impact assessments including case-studies on the vulnerability to sea-level rise of small island countries and low-lying coastal areas and studies to assess response options and their cost implications;

(b) To support expert consultations on the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change in co-operation with other relevant international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

8. Welcomes the Panel's recognition that its structure and the representation of developing countries on its bureau need to be reviewed and urges the Panel to give this task high priority;

9. Requests the Panel, through its Chairman, to report on the progress of its activities to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session;

III. World Climate Programme

1. Urges all States to take appropriate steps to promote national climate activities and to support implementation of the World Climate Programme;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To assume responsibility for the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular, with the World Meteorological Organization, which should continue to provide the overall co-ordination in the implementation of the World Climate Programme;

(b) To join the World Meteorological Organization and other international agencies which, together with the United Nations Environment Programme, co-sponsored the Second World Climate Conference, in the future development of the World Climate Programme;

(c) To join the World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Council of Scientific Unions and other relevant organizations in establishing a Co-ordinating Committee for the World Climate Programme;

(d) To intensify closer co-operation and better communication between the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme and related national, regional and international levels of climate activities, and to support the proposed intergovernmental meeting to discuss co-ordination and resources for the Programme;

(e) To support, within available resources, the creation of a Global Climate Observing System, including its component parts - World Weather Watch, Global Atmosphere Watch and the Global Ocean Observing System - and to assist in ensuring that its development, overseen by the scientific and technical committee of the Global Ocean Observing System and implementation is pursued with urgency by scientists, Governments and international organizations;

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(f) To report to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session on the progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme;

3. Further requests the Executive Director:

(a) To support research efforts including those by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to anticipate and respond to adverse impacts of climate change at the global and regional levels, bearing in mind the special interests of small island countries and the need for inclusion of cost-benefit analyses;

(b) To assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries and small island countries, in country-specific studies to estimate the costs and benefits of dealing with climate change and identifying the available technology and technology needs of a country-by-country basis;

(c) To strengthen, within available resources, public information programmes on the role of climate in development and on the additional risks posed by climate variability and change, within the framework of Earthwatch/Global Environmental Monitoring System.

(d) To enhance and expand the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme related to achieving a greater scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change.

18. Sea-level rise vulnerable assessments

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989 on possible adverse effects on sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying areas, by paragraph 3 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and, through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, inter alia, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates, for improved management of coastal zones,

Recalling Governing Council decision 15/36 of 25 May 1989 on global climate change, in which the Council recommended the institution of programmes and measures of assistance that would make it possible for developing countries to better manage the impacts of global climate change,

Acknowledging that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adopted in August 1990, predicts that sea-level may rise between three to ten centimetres a decade under the business-as-usual emissions scenario and that, even if greenhouse gas emissions were reduced, there would still be a continuing need to address sea-level rise,

Noting that the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also recommended options for adapting to the coastal impacts of global climate change, including identification of areas potentially at risk from sea-level rise and development of comprehensive management plans to reduce future vulnerability of populations, coastal developments and ecosystems as part of coastal zone management,

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Recalling that the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference of November 1990 recognized that global climate change could threaten survival in small island countries, low-lying coastal States and other small islands and called for the development and adoption of response strategies even in the face of uncertainties (A/45/696/Add.1, annex III, para. 8),

Conscious of decisions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its fifth plenary session, in March 1991, to assess vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify adaptive responses bearing in mind cost-benefit analysis in the short and long run and identify implementation requirements in conjunction with the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the intention of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to complete by April 1992 an update of its First Assessment Report, including the results of the sea-level rise vulnerability assessment project, and to present it to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992,

Noting the leading role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization in implementing the Global Ocean Observing System,

1. Urges Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and international organizations, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support fully and participate in the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to assess the vulnerability to sea-level rise of developing countries, particularly small island countries, low-lying coastal states and other small islands;

2. Requests that regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme facilitate developing countries in building their own capability to assess their vulnerability to sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change, identify appropriate response strategies, and develop integrated coastal management plans;

3. Recommends that Governments, taking note of the need to address the issue of vulnerability to sea-level rise, increase their support of these activities.

19. Oceans and coastal areas

The Governing Council,

Taking note of paragraphs 4 and 6 of decision 1/20 of 31 August 1990 (A/45/46, annex I), of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee invited the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to consider making an evaluation of proposals for the further development of scientific,

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technical and financial co-operation for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and to consider undertaking an evaluation of the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution,^{1/}

Taking note also of paragraph 5 of Preparatory Committee decision 2/.. by which the Committee notes with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme is preparing a proposal on strategy options and actions to reduce the effects of land-based sources of pollution, including, inter alia, sewage-related discharges and other activities threatening marine and coastal environment,

Taking note further of the outcome of the intergovernmental meeting of experts on the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution held in Halifax, Canada, from 6 to 10 May 1991,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the preparation of elements for draft strategy options and actions to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, in close co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, other United Nations organizations and taking fully into account the experience gained by the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme and by other regional co-operative programmes on efforts to reduce the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas as well as the outcome of the Halifax meeting;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to convene, subject to availability of resources, and in close co-operation with secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other United Nations agencies an intergovernmental meeting of experts to consider a draft strategy including a targetted and costed programme of action for reduction of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the present decision and on progress made, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its third session in order to enable the Preparatory Committee to take appropriate decisions on the role of the intergovernmental meeting of experts referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision in the preparations for the Conference and to give policy guidance to the meeting;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the intergovernmental meeting of experts, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session;

5. Endorses the co-sponsorship of the intergovernmental panel on global investigation of pollution in the marine environment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

^{1/} See Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles No.7 (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985).

20. Early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, by paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to prepare a report, on the basis of the views of Member States and existing national and international legislation in the field, containing proposals and recommendations on, inter alia, international co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies,

Underlining the importance of strengthening the capacity of Earthwatch to make authoritative statements, to anticipate environmental degradation and to issue early warnings to the international community,

Noting that the general objectives of Earthwatch as defined in the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995, as adopted by the Governing Council by its decision SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988, are "to accumulate and improve reliable and comparable scientific and technical information about environmental issues and to develop and apply means of collecting, storing, retrieving and processing such information in a way that will make it readily available to decision makers and specialists" and "to provide comprehensive assessments of environmental issues on the basis of socio-economic data and data on the major components and processes of the global and regional environments, to monitor, in an appropriate way, the transition towards sustainable development" (UNEP/GCSS.1/7/Add.1, paras. 332 and 343),

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.16/17, annex) and requests that it be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, together with its annex which summarizes the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system;
2. Considers that assessments are particularly needed in all those areas of concentration identified by the Governing Council in section IV of its decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 and enumerated by the General Assembly in resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 for consideration at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;
3. Further considers that Earthwatch should also be able to accommodate emerging issues as and when need arises;
4. Recommends that, in keeping with its mandate, Earthwatch should identify global and regional environmental monitoring and assessment needs, co-ordinate and harmonize global, regional and national monitoring and assessment programmes to the extent required, prepare comprehensive assessment statements, inventories and analytical statements give advanced warning of emerging environmental threats, advise on causal relationships of observed environmental changes, and suggest policy responses and management options where necessary;
5. Further recommends that Earthwatch should pay particular attention to the interface between environment and development;
6. Requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the environmental monitoring and assessment capacities of developing countries to enable them to participate actively and more fully in Earthwatch;

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7. Further requests the Executive Director to prepare detailed proposals for ensuring adequate financial and institutional support to enable Earthwatch to carry out fully its mandated programmes, and to report on these matters to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session, on the basis of the decisions taken by the General Assembly on the Secretary-General's report.

21. Toxic chemicals

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Recalling its decision 85 (V) of 25 May 1977, by paragraph 2 of which it urged Governments to take steps to ensure that potentially harmful chemicals, in whatever form or commodity, which are unacceptable for domestic purposes in the exporting country, are not permitted to be exported without the knowledge and consent of appropriate authorities in the importing country,

Also recalling its decision 14/27 of 17 June 1987, by which the Council adopted the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which constitute an important step towards the implementation of decision 85 (V),

Further recalling its decision 15/30 of 25 May 1989, by which the Council adopted the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, which incorporate the prior informed consent procedure in order fully to implement decision 85 (V), and requested the Executive Director to reconvene the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts that developed the prior informed consent procedure and other modalities to supplement the 1987 London Guidelines,

Noting that the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twenty-fifth session, in November 1989, adopted the amendments to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, by which the prior informed consent procedure was incorporated in the Code in a manner fully compatible with that of the amended London Guidelines, both procedurally and with respect to health and environmental protection,

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through a joint programme, including the work of their Joint Group of Experts on Prior Informed Consent, have been sharing the operational procedure,

1. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to designate national authorities for the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, in particular the prior informed consent procedure;

2. Recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme continue developing model national legislation to assist in the implementation of the amended London Guidelines, in close consultation with Governments and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations;

3. Recommends that the United Nations Environment Programme strengthen consultations with the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the European Economic Community in order to enhance co-operation and harmonize activities relating to the implementation of the amended London Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure;

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4. Requests the Executive Director to invite the various private sector parties involved in the international trade in chemicals:

(a) To enter into commitments aimed at achieving the objectives laid down in the amended London Guidelines;

(b) To prepare a code of ethics on the international trade in chemicals in consultation with the international organizations concerned;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to take further steps for technical assistance to be provided to developing countries for the implementation of the amended London Guidelines;

6. Recommends Governments to take all possible domestic measures to ensure that all concerned ministries and bodies in their countries are aware of the prior informed consent procedures;

7. Urges Governments to adopt, as appropriate, national legislation or to amend existing national legislation in order to incorporate necessary measures to implement the prior informed consent procedure and to prevent exports that contravene prior informed consent decisions by importing countries participating in the procedure;

8. Requests the Executive Director to re-convene the Ad Hoc Working Group for further urgent action, including work on strengthening the legal basis of the amended London Guidelines, taking into consideration, inter alia, experience gained in the implementation of the Guidelines and the prior informed consent procedure;

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Having taken note of paragraph 3 of decision 2/.. of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee invited the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Labour Organisation, in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, to report ongoing work, carried out through appropriate governmental expert meetings, concerning possible proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals,

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare, in co-operation with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Economic Community and other relevant organizations, draft proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals;

2. Further requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene in consultation with the executive heads of the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, within the context of the collaboration under the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and in co-operation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation, the European Economic Community, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other relevant international organizations, a meeting of government-designated experts to consider the draft proposals and, in consultation with the executive Heads

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of International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization and through the appropriate channels, to submit to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session a report on the outcome of the meeting.

22. Hazardous waste

Noting with appreciation the shift in environmental policy in favour of the principle of precautionary action and the recommendations from the international community for implementing that policy through clean production methods,

Recalling its decision SS.II/4 B of 3 August 1990 on comprehensive approach to hazardous waste, by paragraph 1 of which it called upon Governments and international forums to implement the precautionary approach through clean production methods in order to achieve the reduction and elimination of hazardous wastes and substances,

Aware of the adoption in January 1991 of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management within Africa of Hazardous Wastes, which contains provisions regarding the precautionary principle and clean production approach to prevent and eliminate polluting emissions and discharges,

Noting section I, paragraph 3, of decision 1/22 of 31 August 1990 of Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by which the Committee invited United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant organizations, to consider preparing elements for international strategy for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste (A/45/46, annex I),

Also noting resolution 8 of 22 March 1989 adopted by the Basel Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, by which the Conference called upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a technical working group to prepare draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes,

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare, through the Interim Secretariat for the Basel Convention and in co-operation with the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Economic Community and other relevant organizations, draft elements of an international strategy and an action programme, including technical guidelines, for environmentally sound management of hazardous waste;

2. Further requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to convene, in co-operation with other organizations as appropriate, an ad hoc meeting of governmental experts to consider the draft international strategy and the action programme;

3. Emphasizes that the international strategy and the action programme:

(a) May consider the pursuit of waste minimization as part of a broad cleaner production approach focusing on both products and processes from "the cradle to the grave", taking into account the experience gained by the

cleaner production programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and the clean production guidelines for national action of the Bamako Convention;

(b) Should recognize the important role that has to be played by industry not only in developing new clean technologies but also in introducing good operating practices for the minimization of waste;

(c) Should be made available to Governments in order to serve as guidance for the elaboration of national strategies for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

4. Urges Governments that have not yet acceded to or ratified the Basel convention to do so as soon as possible;

5. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the outcome of the meeting of governmental experts to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its first meeting and to the contracting parties to the Bamako Convention at their first meeting;

6. Also requests the Executive Director, through the appropriate channels, to report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its third session, on progress made and, at its fourth session, on the outcome of the meeting of governmental experts;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue to support the efforts of African Governments with regard to the entry into force and implementation of the Bamako Convention.
